

Daily Eagle

M. M. MURDOCK, Editor.

THE NILE
OF AMERICA
KNOCKED OUT.

The Arkansas river, once both a menace and a benediction to south-west Kansas, is to be neither in the future, it seems, according to a Washington dispatch. For years before Colorado dreamed of irrigation, years before Colorado was a state, in fact, at a time when most of Colorado was included in the boundary lines of Kansas, the waters of the Arkansas flowed on unimpeded and unappropriated, as a blessing, through Kansas, the same as when Pike meandered its margins from the Mississippi to the foot of the peak named in his honor. After the settlement of the valley, in Kansas, it was not long before it was evident to the farmer that the Arkansas was to be to southwest Kansas what the Nile had for ages been to Egypt, with this difference that the Nile of America was valuable because of its underflow, while the Nile of Egypt carried its blessings in its overflow. Of course the Arkansas annually indulged in an overflow, of greater or less magnitude, but the waters of such overflow were confined to the immediate river bottoms. The underflow did not cease the year around, and it spread out under wide expanses of lands, hence the descriptive word or term "sub-irrigation," first appearing in the Eagle in April, 1872, and often employed later by this paper in protesting against the threat of the melon and alfalfa growers of Colorado to steal our waters, to the detriment of this great and productive valley. Later on came the sugar beet craze, when the water threatened to disappear entirely, not only as a valuable underflow for sub-irrigation, but as a supply and sanitary agent for a number of very important towns and cities of Kansas, most of them founded long before those Colorado ditch companies had commenced to sequester the water of the river for their corporate and combined benefit.

The dispatch of yesterday morning to which we allude, and which appeared in these columns, is to the effect that the supreme court has granted the petition of Attorney General Knox, who seeks to intervene in the case, to the end that the United States shall have jurisdiction rather than either the state of Kansas, the prior user, or the state of Colorado, whose people later found that the waters could be utilized profitably in reclaiming desert lands.

The Eagle originally was responsible for the claim that subsequently resulted in the contention now before the supreme court. At the time its editor first took up the matter personally, with our Kansas United States senators, the government had been making annual appropriations for rendering the Arkansas river navigable from Wichita to the Mississippi river, government engineers having determined by actual measurement that the river afforded sufficient water, if confined to a channel of reasonable width. Had the waters remained with steam boats, however small or insignificant, operating between this point and the lower Mississippi, millions of dollars would have been saved to the people of this section in reduced freight rates as Wichita would have been made a basing point. The Colorado scheme of cheap cantaloupes therefore not only circumscribed the productive capacity of the valley lands of the river in this state, but rendered the navigability of the Arkansas river, the Nile of America, out of the question, an utter impossibility.

VICTOR WRITES HIS UNCLE BENT.

T. B. Murdock, who went temporarily blind during the recent Republican convention held in this city, on reaching home indulged in the expressing of some rather morbid reflections, in his paper, the El Dorado Daily Republican, sandwiching his own observations with more or less applicable texts from the Bible. On the 10th issue of the paper, containing the declaration of Christ that "whoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die," falling into the hands of his nephew, Victor Murdock, he wrote him as follows:

"My Dear Uncle Bent—I have just read 'Whoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die.' I always knew that you had this in you deeper, more earnest, more sacredly inviolate, than most men. That is the whole thing. To this, and this only, will life adjust. To this, and this only, in the last analysis will all the logic and all the knowledge in the world lead any man at last. Between the realities and this great unreality, or better between the unrealities and this great reality, there is a chasm, with no bridge to span, except that some great sorrow, or some great joy, or a dizzy victory, or a staggering defeat, throws in a single beautiful, or agonized, instant, a pathway across the feeble mind. I have never seen the pathway, but sometimes, in the strains of music, in the flicker of a twilight star or in a baby's smile, I have found subtle, fleeting proof that it is there.

"Good-bye.
"Washington, March 18."

VICTOR.

CONGRESSIONAL GRAFTING.

The gentle reader may have noticed that President Roosevelt is standing by Bristow. The papers that were going to have Bristow dismissed don't seem to be making much headway. The congressmen who were blowing off like whales calling Bristow names will be given a chance to explain. The explaining will not help those who were most noisy.

The truth about the grafting is that there is too much of it not merely among congressmen, but in all walks of politics. A congressman thinks the people's taxes are his to spend. He thinks when he gets a "raise" for a postmaster or a clerk, that he is doing something smart. The fact is that in nine cases out of ten the congressman is stealing. When a postmaster deserves a raise he gets it. When a clerk is being underpaid, there are plenty of ways provided to see that the clerk gets justice, without the congressman using his "influence." "Influence" too often is sheer graft.

The congressman should give the people the benefit of the doubt instead of standing by these political workers. The average congressman makes a great talk about his love for the people, and takes the people's taxes to pay his political debts at every opportunity.

Federal taxes are high because the government is not

administered as economically as it should be, and the extravagance is traceable always to the doors of congressmen, who "get things for the boys." It is time that congressmen wake up and get something for the people. The "boys" have had enough. The people are tired of this legalized stealing by congressmen and senators, and the Bristow report, which called the congressmen down, and exposed their misdeeds, was the most sensible public document that has been printed by the government for a long time.

There was a curious thing about the congressional abuse of Bristow: Not a man who abused him had an unkind word for Machen and Beavers, two notorious thieves. The thieves in the government seem to be standing together. It will pay the taxpayers to think of these things. It was funny that these congressmen in passing might not have said something about Machen and Beavers; but they didn't. They abused Bristow for two reasons: First, because he caught their "pals" with the goods on them, and, second, because he caught the congressmen themselves.

The thieves in the government are getting mighty bold. Do they think that they have fooled the people or that the people are rabbits?—Euphoria Gazette.

APPENDICITIS AN EPIDEMIC.

Appendicitis among other physical ailments has become so universally fashionable that it threatens to become epidemic, that each big home will soon be compelled to keep its own private operator and nurse. Some of the more modern houses in the east, that is, homes of those who are able to indulge in every luxury, are provided with features which recognize the emergencies of this fast generation. Sickrooms and accidents have been taken into account, and the newly erected palaces include a real hospital among other innovations. It is well, for nervous prostration needs absolute rest, and in the hospital part of the home hospital rest will be had.

A STAPLE THAT CAN'T BE CORNERED.

Sully has gone the way of the average speculator. It is an easy matter to buy and sell on margin, but when you have to buy and hold the real goods and then dispose of that part at the inflated price it is an altogether different affair. In old times Fisk and Gould ran up the price of gold, but when the treasury of the United States commenced to give them real, yellow metal, in the shape of eagles and double eagles, they couldn't stand the pressure, and, more than that, the Gould fortune almost went glimmering at that time.

WRAITHS.

I caught the fragrance of a hidden rose,
A rose I never saw. And once I heard
A song that poured itself into my veins
And flows there still. O little, unknown bird!
O unrecorded rose, with breathlike wine!
O little hand that never lay in mine!

—Zona Gale.

Wichita reads about Carnegie's gifts to Topeka and wonders why in the world Andy doesn't give the Peeries Princess ten or fifteen thousand with which to construct an auditorium that will be commensurate to the town's needs.—Topeka Herald. Never worry. Wichita is not beholden to Andy Carnegie or to any outside aid or influence. She will build an auditorium in all good time.

The Topeka Capital is authority for the assertion that the sand storm of three weeks ago ground up, flowed away and altogether totally annihilated all the eggs of the Hessian fly which the dry winter had failed to addle. But the Capital is not published in the wheat belt. Any way, the wheat fields of this section did not suffer from drouth this winter in the least.

As an exemplar of what an anti-machine man is like that man Stubbs has paralyzed the old machine men and beggared their methods. This man Stubbs, who has been chosen chairman of the new machine, evidently took Hanna as his pattern, carrying his business methods into his politics, which Hanna did.

It is announced that President Harper will not be satisfied until the endowment of Chicago University will amount to \$50,000,000. He expects to reach this mark within the next ten years. Harper is a good deal of a blow and his university a great deal of a pretense.

With a Tillman in each end of the capitol, the Wichita Eagle proposes that a squad of marines be stationed in the rotunda. The Topeka Herald moves to amend by substituting the word police. The Tillmans do not rise above the dignity of police court characters.

Wichita seems to be the victim of interventions. When over she asks the interstate commerce commission for equitable freight rates Kansas City, Missouri, "intervenes." Now Attorney General Knox intervenes to deprive her of her once navigable river.

If China and Korea turn in with Japan, which it is their plain interest to do, the Russian bear will be sent back home across Siberia with his tail between his legs. But we forget. A bear doesn't carry a tail equal to such a performance.

It seems that Wichita is to be knocked out again with another intervening. This time it is not a matter of freight rates by Kansas City, but of Colorado water by Attorney General Knox.

The last heard of Cy. Leland and Mort. Although they were sitting at the feet of Gamaliel Stubbs with their mouths wide open in wonderment over the way the new machine was grinding out a committee for Hoch.

There have been two or three disastrous tornadoes this spring already, the last one as close as Missouri, so it will not be long before the eastern press commences to dilute on the Kansas cyclone.

And if Delaware doesn't reciprocate by sending AA dicks to the senate, he will just take the pecky little state and lock it up in his safe as a commodity belonging exclusively to him by purchase.

The unrestrained freedom of the American press is a great thing. Crookedness cannot survive publicity, and the grafter has to be quite that can escape the scrutiny of a free and uncontrolled press.

Governor Bailey says he will help in the state campaign this fall, and the Hoch managers have replied that he shall be given the best speaking assignments possible.

The new ruling by Commissioner of Pensions Ware regarding pensions will work to the advantage of applicants for pensions under the act of June 27, 1890.

The Democratic state committee of Nebraska has sustained Mr. Bryan by a vote of sixteen to fourteen. About as close to sixteen to one as he will ever get.

Mr. Bryan is out in the Commoner in a strong appeal for harmony. Samples of the particular brand will be furnished on application at the sanctum.

The Balfour ministry seems to be doomed. There is much dissatisfaction in England, and it is cropping out in parliament.

KANSAS HISTORY REVEALS THAT

IN 1858, FORTY-SIX YEARS AGO TODAY—The Constitutional convention met at Minnesota, being called to order by W. T. Roberts. The vote for temporary chairman stood: M. F. Conway, 47; A. Danforth, 15. James H. Lane was elected president by acclamation; Samuel F. Tappan, clerk; B. T. Hutchins, assistant clerk; George F. Warren, sergeant-at-arms; John Kimball, assistant sergeant-at-arms, and Richard F. Hinton, reporter. Senator James S. Green's bill, which proposed to admit Kansas under the Pro-Slavery constitution framed at Leecompton, had passed the senate March 2. The house adopted the Crittenden-Montgomery substitute which proposed to submit the Leecompton constitution to the people of Kansas.

IN 1854, THIRTY YEARS AGO TODAY—Ben Ackers, of Lawrence, was buying cavalry horses. Kansas has furnished horses to the army ever since.

IN 1881, TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY—Sedgewick county's corn train which arrived at Cincinnati on the 22nd, accompanied by the following committee: Mayor Wm. Greifenstein, W. T. Jewett, Capt. W. T. White, T. J. Shelton and Prof. Werrall, was on display and was visited by thousands. On the 23rd it was formally accepted by the city's Chamber of Commerce.

IN 1884, TEN YEARS AGO TODAY—Arthur Hancher, of Winfield, was found guilty in the district court at Wichita of robbing the express company.

IN 1890, FIVE YEARS AGO TODAY—The American National Bank of Arkansas City lost the suit in the United States district court against the National Bank of Summer county. The cause of action was to compel payment on a customer's note, which the latter refused.

THE PIKERS' LAMENT

"When a new book comes out I read an old one."—Rogers

There is no longer any doubt that gas exists at Blackwell, says the News. But considerable of Blackwell's light is still hidden under several bushels.

The New York American, Hearst's paper, prints photographs of people's souls. The paper says that the negative of the priest's soul should develop nothing but a yellow spot.

The Wichita children have revised that game wherein appears that song about "London's bridge," and now it goes this way: "Wichita's bridge is falling down!"

There seems to be no doubt that there will be FOUR HUNDRED representatives here to the Methodist conference.

If Blackwell can add oil flow to her gas odor, John D. Rockefeller's eyes will soon be on that Baptist college there.

That rule which says that "the first shall be last" seems to hold good in regard to the war reports, too.

Why don't the business men of Wichita take up Landis, the electrician, scheme of transporting energy from the gas fields to Wichita. There is proof that it is a paying proposition. There are large divisions in it for the stockholders of the company and millions in Wichita property which this cheap fuel-getter would bring out. Let every man who is willing to put \$200 or more into a proposition where three-fourths can be saved on fuel, write a letter declaring the same to the Chamber of Commerce? There is more than the one way of feeling kindly about in the bowels of the earth for getting cheap fuel.

They say that Judge Dale thinks that he can be elected governor of Kansas on the Democratic ticket. The piker desires to deny the rumor on Dale's past record as a good judge.

"If there is anything on earth that recommends me to not possessing \$12,000,000," said a Wichita man yesterday. "It is the fact that it would buy a pound of radium. Now, I don't want a pound of radium—ergo, I don't want \$12,000,000. See?"

LITERATURE.
If you don't want the magazines
Your secret trades to tell,
Beware the women clerks whose pens
Their modest incomes swell.

—C. T. F.

All Japan desires to drive Russia back to barbarian Europe, restore Manchuria to China and annex Korea. She has practically accomplished the last point already.

Word comes from South Haven that last week's sand-storm killed all the young Hessian flies. The gravel probably stuck in their throats and choked them to death.

Ten thousand dollars have been offered for one and a half acres of ground in Chautauqua county. The tract was overlooked by the oil land lease until last week.

The Wheatland Telephone company has been organized. It will put in a line from Wheatland to Conway.

Jetmore is at the waterworks bargain counter and is hesitating, a thing fatal to do in the case of more than one liquid and cooler proposition.

The sugar beet expert has struck Kansas again this summer. Sumner and Cowley counties and key county, Oklahoma, are among his first hygienic subjects.

The Baptists have bought out the Christians at Caldwell. More specifically speaking, they have bought the Christians' church building.

A former Harper girl made a "hit" at Boston playing "Elen" in "That Man and I." Everybody in Harper now claims that they always did like beans.

The Atchison Globe is in favor of the Democrats instructing for Senator Harris for president in hopes that the commission will induce him to change his mind and run for governor.

The Cheney telephone system has been sold by At Home to E. C. Agnew, its lines connect one hundred red phones.

Stafford county farmers are making calculations on putting up a farmers' co-op at Billiken. A meeting will be held Saturday at Macksville to discuss the proposed industry.

Kansas has furnished the United States navy with 111 recruits in the past year. That's pretty good for a land where even the prairie schooner is seen no more.

The Lawrence Gazette asserts that the nomination of Chris. Maish for the council at Lawrenceworth (name counter being a religious act than anything. Lawrenceworth has done in several years.

There will be a basketball tournament at Newton Tuesday of next week. The clerks of the city's different establishments compose the teams.

William Robinson died Sunday at Colver, Sedgewick county. He fought in both the Mexican and civil wars.

Merchants at Liberal may institute a mail route from there to Beaver, O. T. It is believed that it would be a paying investment.

The Liberal News remarks that the present progress of new people into the western country promises to revive the boom that occurred nineteen years ago.

The man who is going to put in an inter-tribal railroad between Wichita, Hutchinson and Newton was once a newspaper editor at Belle Plaine. However, it is thought the stock can all be disposed of without Belle Plaine's assistance.

The world affords a loss in the death of Charles Dudley at Anthony, Sedgewick. He was an optimist.

Atchison Globe: There is no doubt that W. R. Hepler has distributed lot of money in Kansas. How much did he give the men who are howling for him so enthusiastically?

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